



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

of

ABERAYRON

CARDIGANSHIRE

P U B L I C H E A L T H D E P A R T M E N T

ANNUAL REPORT

1951.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Ernest Ll. Davies, M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.).
(resigned September 30th).

I. Morgan Watkin, Ph.D.(Lond.), M.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.(Wales).

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Dyfrig O. Davies, Cert. S.I.B.

P R E F A C E

The year 1951 witnessed a change in the administrative arrangements of the Health Department of your Council. Dr. Ernest Davies who had held the post of Medical Officer of Health for over twenty years resigned on September 30th in order that a new full-time medical officer to the district councils of the county could assume duties. It is fitting, therefore, that I should pay tribute to his long and faithful service to the authority during the years in which he held office - years during which numerous extra burdens had to be borne as the district was, during the last war, a reception area for evacuees.

The vital statistics show that whereas twenty-seven persons died during the year, only four births were recorded. Of the deaths, seventeen were males and ten were females. The commonest cause of death was heart disease which claimed twelve victims. In six cases death was attributed to vascular lesions of the nervous system and bronchitis was the cause in a further four. No maternal or infant death was recorded.

There were no notifications of infectious disease during the first three quarters of the year, but during the last quarter twenty-five cases of measles were reported.

One factor which has caused the Council persistent concern is the state of Pencarreg leet. As the owner of the property from which the alleged nuisance arises is the county council,

It is to be hoped that the representations made to this authority will result in an abatement of the nuisance.

The Sanitary Inspector's report is appended as a separate item.

I. MORGAN WATKIN.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Cardiganshire Joint District Councils,
Swyddfa'r Sir,
Aberystwyth.
July, 1952.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	346
Pop. Census (1931)	1,155
Estimated population (mid-year 1951)	1,228
Rateable value	£5,181
Sum represented by a penny rate ..	£20

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number of registered live births (leg. (illeg.	4 -	3 -	1 -
Number of registered stillbirths	Nil		
Number of deaths	27		
Number of deaths of women ascribed to childbirth	Nil		
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year	Nil		
Number of deaths of infants under 1 month	Nil		
Number of deaths from Tuberculosis	Nil		
Number of deaths from violence	Nil		

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

- (a) No ante-natal or post-natal clinic is held in the district by the local health authority. Expectant and nursing mothers receive medical advice from their own medical practitioners
- (b) An infant welfare clinic attended by a medical officer of the local health authority is held once a fortnight.
- (c) The domiciliary midwifery service is carried out by the district nurse who is also a State Registered Midwife.
- (d) The Aberayron Urban District Council area forms part of a much larger area covered by a Health Visitor of the County Council.
- (e) Home nursing is in the hands of the district nurse.
- (f) Vaccination is carried out by the person's own medical attendant, but immunisation against diphtheria is performed partly by the former and partly by medical officers of the local health authority.
- (g) An ambulance is stationed at New Quay which is used for general and accident work. Fever cases are usually removed by an ambulance ear-marked for infectious diseases and stationed at Aberystwyth.
- (h) Arrangements for the prevention of illness consist in periodic talks and advice by the medical officers of both the local health and the local authority.

Care and after care are in the hands of the district nurse and of the Health Visitor. Tuberculosis cases are also followed up by the Chest Physician's Health Visitor - a

situation which, in my opinion, involves an unnecessary duplication of attention.

- (i) Domestic help is provided by suitable persons who are, as a rule, engaged locally.
- (j) There is a small hospital situated within the Urban District, but the town of Aberystwyth, about 20 miles distant, is the centre upon which the principal general hospital in the county, the infectious diseases' hospital, the maternity home and the Medical Research Council's Area Public Health Laboratory are based.

Infectious Diseases

No serious infectious disease was notified during the year. During the autumn, a small outbreak of measles occurred in the town.

National Assistance Act

The Council granted the Medical Officer of Health power to apply for Orders under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. The necessity to take action did not, however, arise.

Water Supply

A supply of water sufficient in quantity and satisfactory in quality is available for present needs. In view of the necessity of providing the district with a more hygienic method of sewage disposal - most of the sewage is at present discharged into the harbour - an increased quantity of water will be required and the Council proposes to obtain this from Llyn Fanol.

The bacteriological examinations of the water were satisfactory, but a chemical analysis indicated a strong solvent action upon lead. The use of lead pipes has, however, been prohibited by the Council.

Three hundred and forty seven houses (approx. population of 1,000) receive a direct supply from the mains. The remaining eighty three houses obtain their water from standpipes.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE
ABERAYRON URBAN DISTRICT FOR 1951.

My report for 1951 for the Urban District of Aberayron is as follows:-

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water.

The Aberayron Urban District reservoir receives its supply from the main reservoir at Bwlch Castell, Cilcennin, which is fed by a series of springs. The water is of a satisfactory quality and in 1951 the quantity proved satisfactory. The water is liable to have plumbo-solvent action and the use of lead pipes is prohibited.

Sewerage.

Part of the Urban District is provided with sewers, the majority of which have outfalls in the harbour. This arrangement is most unsatisfactory and a proposed new sewerage scheme has been prepared by the Council's consulting engineers. In view of the additional quantity of water required for sewerage it has been proposed to augment the present supply from Llyn Fanod in the Tregaron district.

Closet Accommodation.

Estimated number of Privies with fixed receptacles ..	..	198
Estimated number of Privies with moveable receptacles ..	..	28
Estimated number of Water Closets .. .. .	..	196
Estimated number of Earth Closets .. .. .	..	8
Number of conversions - Privy Pits to Water Closets ..	..	4
Number of conversions - Pail Closets to Water Closets ..	..	2
New Houses completed with pail closets .. .. .	..	Nil.
New Houses completed with water closets .. .. .	..	13

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

House and garden refuse is collected once weekly by the Council. The refuse is disposed of by tipping near the sea shore.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Number of inspections of Dwelling Houses	..	..	..	51
Number of inspections of Dairies..	..	..	..	4
Number of inspections of Bakehouses	..	..	..	20
Number of inspections of Meat Shops	..	..	..	16
Number of houses visited upon notification of Inf. Dis.	..	..	..	Nil.
Number of houses disinfected after infectious disease	..	..	..	Nil.

Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Number of informal notices served	..	..	..	6
Number of informal notices complied with	..	..	..	6
Number of Statutory notices served	..	..	..	Nil.

Smoke Abatement.

No cause for action during the year.

Rag Flock Acts 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in the area where Rag Flock is used, manufactured or sold.

Camping Sites.

Number of sites which were used for camping purposes during the year..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Number of sites in respect of which licences were issued by the local authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Estimated number of campers in the area at one time during the summer period	..	..	..	..	..	..	20

H O U S I N G.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts)	8
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Remedy of Defects without service of formal notices.

Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action..	6
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Action under Statutory Powers.

No proceedings were taken during 1951.

Estimated number of dwelling houses which in normal times
be condemned 4

No. of persons on the waiting list for houses in the area) Waiting
on December 31st, 1951) List not
Total number of persons involved in the applications..) Kept.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

No. of inspections of Meat Shops..	.. .. .	16
No. of inspections of Restaurants	.. .. .	24
No. of inspections of Premises where ice cream is sold	.. .. .	24
No. of inspections of Bakehouses..	.. .. .	20
No. of inspections of Dairies ..	.. .. .	4

Articles of food which were examined and found to be unfit
for human consumption:-

<u>Article of food.</u>	<u>Weight.</u>	<u>Cause of Condemnation.</u>
Canned Luncheon Meat	8 lbs	Decomposition & perforated cans.
Granulated Sugar	110 lbs	Exposure to heat and soiling by extinguisher.
Canned Beef	6 lbs	Perforated and rusty can.
Canned Carrots	1 lb	Perforated and rusty can.
Canned Ham	14 lbs	Decomposition.
Canned Fruit	6 lbs	Blown Cans.
Herrings	3 cwts. 1 qr.	Decomposition.
Hind Quarter		
Imported Beef (N.Z.)	119 lbs	Bone Taint.
Home killed beef	51 lbs	Bone Taint.

Ante- and post-mortem inspection of animals is carried out by the Meat Inspectors at the Ministry of Food Distributing Centre, Lampeter, from where the meat retailers of the district receive their supply.

FACTORIES ACTS.

No action was taken under the above acts.

D. O. DAVIES, Cert.S.I.B.
Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
1, North Road,
Aberystroth.

